

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 have been canceled , new claims 21-36 being substituted therefor. New claims 21-36 are fully supported by the original disclosure. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be approved and entered, and that prosecution on the merits now proceed with respect to new claims 21-36 set forth hereinabove.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is a copy of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0024659 A1 (publication of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/910,747), published February 28, 2002, and a Form PTO/SB/08B listing the particulars thereof.

In U.S. Application Serial No. 09/910,747 (which was published as Publication No. US 2002/0024659 A1), an Office Action dated October 31, 2002 has been received, in which claims 1 and 2 of Application Serial No. 09/910,747 were provisionally rejected based on obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 2 of the present application. Said Office Action issued in Application Serial No. 09/910,747 is currently being considered by applicant.

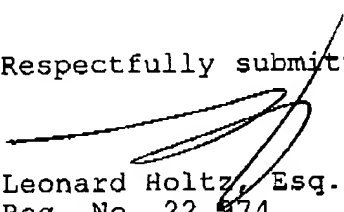
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed to inform the Examiner of related Application Serial No. 09/910,747

(published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No.
US 2002/0024659 A1).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an
initialed copy of the attached Form PTO/SB/08B to confirm that
U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0024659 A1
(corresponding to related Application Serial No. 09/910,747) has
been considered and made of record.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt
action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 8, 2002

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